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# RULE OF LAW STABILIZATION – FORMAL COMPONENT MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1 – MAY 31, 2013

**May 2013**

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The author's views in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

# CONTENTS

<b>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TASK 1:</b> Continuing support to the judicial <i>Stage</i> program	
<b>TASK 2:</b> Improve institutional capacity of state justice institutions, including anti-corruption courts	
<b>TASK 3:</b> Continue practical skills training & continuing legal education for sitting judges	
<b>COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TASK 1:</b> Train court staff to provide professional court administrative services	
<b>TASK 2:</b> Develop Supreme Court capacity to manage budget, personnel, and infrastructure	
<b>COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TASK 1:</b> Continue implementation of core curriculum for Law and <i>Sharia</i> faculties	
<b>TASK 2:</b> Provide practical training for law students and instructors	
<b>TASK 3:</b> Support hands-on training for law students	
<b>TASK 4:</b> Develop advanced legal English training	
<b>TASK 5:</b> Modernize teaching methodologies	
<b>COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>TASK 1:</b> Provide equipment and technical assistance to develop public legal outreach capacity	
<b>TASK 2:</b> Capacity building of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice to conduct effective print campaigns	
<b>TASK 3:</b> Capacity building of the Supreme Court and Ministry of Justice to produce radio and television programs	
<b>GENDER JUSTICE.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>

# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<b>ACAS</b>	Afghanistan Court Administration System
<b>ACT</b>	Anti-Corruption Tribunal
<b>AWJA</b>	Afghan Women Judges Association
<b>CLE</b>	Continuing Legal Education
<b>CMS</b>	Case Management System
<b>COR</b>	Contracting Officer's Representative
<b>GIRoA</b>	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
<b>GIZ</b>	German Agency for International Cooperation
<b>HR</b>	Human Resources
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>INL</b>	Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
<b>ISAF</b>	International Security Assistance Force
<b>JSSP</b>	Justice Sector Support Program
<b>MOHE</b>	Ministry of Higher Education
<b>MOJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>PRT</b>	Provincial Reconstruction Team
<b>PMP</b>	Performance Management Plan
<b>RLS-Formal</b>	Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization Project - Formal Component
<b>SC</b>	Supreme Court
<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The Afghanistan Rule of Law Stabilization – Formal Component (RLS-Formal) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program designed to increase public confidence in the rule of law system and support the improved performance and accountability of governance in Afghanistan.**

The project accomplished the following results and activities in May:

**Judicial Education** RLS-Formal supported a multi-donor training program on anti-corruption for judges and prosecutors in Kabul in May. The project worked with the judicial *Stage* to prepare a train-the-trainer program to build the capacity of judicial *Stage* instructors and initiated the planning process for an international study tour for anti-corruption judges in support of their continuing legal education.

**Court Management** In May, RLS-Formal continued a training program for Supreme Court staff on its asset management database, as well as a workshop to familiarize Supreme Court staff engineers with construction design software. The project also delivered office equipment to the Supreme Court to assist staff with entering data into the asset management database.

**Legal Education** The Ministry of Higher Education held a national Symposium, facilitated by RLS-Formal, for Law and *Sharia* faculties to engage in a strategic dialogue on legal education in Afghanistan. Kabul University graduated 150 students from intensive legal English language courses and graduated 130 students from computer literacy training programs with the project's support. Herat University commenced two practical training programs for professors of legal clinics, and the Panjsher Institute inaugurated a library for its *Sharia* faculty with the support of RLS-Formal.

**Public Legal Outreach** In May, the Ministry of Justice graduated its public outreach staff from a training program on the National Legal Awareness Strategy in Mazar with the support of the project. RLS-Formal also worked closely with the Ministry of Justice to develop a web-based application for Afghanistan's legal code and to leverage the institution's public legal outreach campaigns by securing low cost air time on radio stations.

**Gender** In May, RLS-Formal assisted members of the Afghan Women Judges Association to attend the 2013 Regional Conference of the International Association of Women Judges in New Zealand. The project also conducted a gender justice training program for female students at Takhar University and met with the Supreme Court to discuss conducting a gender justice training program for women judges.

# FORMAL RULE OF LAW SYSTEM IMPROVED

**RLS-Formal enhances the rule of law system in Afghanistan by strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and court administrators. The project organizes these activities under Component 1 and Component 2, respectively. The objective of the components is to ensure fair, accountable, and transparent dispute resolution in the formal court system and increase public confidence in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.**

## **COMPONENT 1: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE JUDICIARY**

### **TASK 1: CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE JUDICIAL STAGE PROGRAM**

- In May, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the Supreme Court (SC) to discuss a train-the-trainer program for instructors at the judicial *Stage*, the induction training program for new judges. The program intends to build the capacity of the instructors to employ modern teaching techniques, such as lesson plans, practical exercises, PowerPoint presentations, and participatory question and answer sessions to improve the learning process for *Stage* students. RLS-Formal provides technical, material, and financial support to students and instructors at the *Stage* in order to ensure Afghanistan's newest judges possess appropriate training and skills to enter and excel at judicial service.

### **TASK 2: IMPROVE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ANTI-CORRUPTION COURTS**

- On May 14<sup>th</sup>, the SC graduated fourteen judges (13 male; one female) and fourteen male prosecutors from a multi-donor joint training program in Kabul. The 10-day training was supported by RLS-Formal, the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The participants, specializing in the handling and processing of corruption cases, came from across Afghanistan to receive ten days of training on the anti-corruption law, money laundering, and judicial and prosecutorial ethics. RLS-Formal aims to improve the quality of justice service delivery at the anti-corruption tribunals through practical training activities for judges and prosecutors in order to enhance their capacity to adjudicate and prosecute anti-corruption cases and increase public confidence in the government's commitment to fight corruption and enforce the rule of law.



*An RLS-Formal advisor leads a session for judges and prosecutors at an anti-corruption training program in Kabul in May 2013.*

## Fighting Corruption with Knowledge

### Judges and Prosecutors Receive Training on New Anti-Corruption Laws



*Judge Sardar poses a question to a trainer during a presentation on ethics for judges and prosecutors.*

Increasing public confidence in the rule of law in Afghanistan requires a judiciary **willing and able to fight corruption**. Anti-corruption courts play a key role in improving governance by resolving cases and increasing accountability. However, many judges and prosecutors at such courts lack the legal knowledge to properly adjudicate their increasing caseloads.

**Sardar Mohammad** is a judge at the Public Security Division of the Appellate Court in Logar province, which has seen a steady increase in its caseload in the past year. A number of these cases involve banking and money-laundering issues. However, Judge Sardar and other judges at the Logar provincial court were unfamiliar with these new laws and lacked the resources to research the laws themselves.

As a result, in May, **USAID** through the RLS-Formal program, the **Department of Justice (DOJ)** and **Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)** joined together to help improve the capacity of practitioners in anti-corruption cases by providing practical training for judges and prosecutors on substantive laws and courtroom procedures. Judge Sardar attended this training and studied the legal framework for tackling corruption, including banking and money-laundering laws, and judicial and prosecutorial ethics. He learned the courtroom procedures governing the duration of the trial process, which he found particularly impactful: “At the training, we learned the importance of hearing cases within the assigned time.”

Judge Sardar later transferred the knowledge that he gained at the training program to other judges and prosecutors when he returned to Logar. “After I completed the training and returned to the court, I, at

once gave a report to the Chief Judge of the court and my fellow judges. We resolved to put into effect the training. This will help **motivate judges to reduce their caseloads.**”

- On May 21<sup>st</sup>, RLS-Formal advisors met with officials from the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitutions (ICOIC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to discuss an anticipated conference on the role of the judiciary in combating corruption in Afghanistan. The ICOIC and the UNDP agreed to contribute their technical expertise and experience to the anti-corruption conference expected to take place in August. RLS-Formal aims to increase public confidence in the formal justice system by promoting strategic planning and dialogue among key government and non-government stakeholders through events such as conferences and seminars which focus on key corruption related issues.

### **TASK 3: CONTINUE PRACTICAL SKILLS TRAINING & CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION FOR SITTING JUDGES**

- In May, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the SC’s Judicial Education Committee to discuss an upcoming study tour for its members. The meetings determined that visiting judicial institutions and observing the legal education system in France, which Afghanistan’s *Stage* is modeled after, would allow the Committee members to gain insight for improving the organization and function of their own judicial education institution. RLS-Formal conducts observational learning programs, such as study tours, in order to provide beneficiaries with an opportunity to evaluate international best practices and identify measures for strengthening the rule of law in Afghanistan.

## **COMPONENT 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

### **TASK 1: TRAIN COURT STAFF TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL COURT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- Between May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal continued to conduct a workshop to familiarize SC staff engineers with proper use of construction design software. Six engineers received training on 3D design utilizing AutoCAD, which streamlines the design and documentation processes for court construction projects. RLS-Formal assists the construction department of the SC to develop and manage infrastructure projects in order to effectively increase and improve the physical presence of the formal justice system throughout each province of Afghanistan.
- In May, RLS-Formal continued to implement a training program for SC staff from the Administration and Information Technology departments on the Court’s asset management database. Ten male and two female staff members learned how to use the database to enter and track asset information, such as equipment values, vehicle maintenance schedules, and overall asset control and depreciation. The SC developed and installed the asset management database in December 2012 with assistance from the RLS-Formal project, with an aim towards developing the capacity of Court staff to manage its personnel, finances, and material assets.





*An RLS-Formal staff member trains SC staff on the asset management database in Kabul in May 2013.*

- In May, RLS-Formal advisors continued to meet with members of the SC to discuss initiating an induction training program for court administrators. The training program, referred to as the administrative Stage, aims to professionalize the country's court administrators to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery for all court personnel utilizing the services of the formal justice system.
- In May, RLS-Formal advisors continued to provide technical assistance to the SC's Transportation Directorate and Construction Department. Assistance included working with SC staff to implement improved vehicle management strategies and assisted with the review of design plans for new district-level primary courts. RLS-Formal provides technical assistance to the SC to implement strategies to enhance the management its human resources, finances, and physical assets.

## **TASK 2: DEVELOP SUPREME COURT CAPACITY TO MANAGE BUDGET, PERSONNEL, AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the SC continued to work on implementing a statistics database which will be supported by RLS-Formal. The Director of the SC's Department of Research and Studies agreed to the design and specifications set out in the concept note for the development of the database. In the coming weeks, RLS-Formal will request proposals from potential implementing partners to build and install the system. The database will track crucial court statistics such as case type, party names, pending case status, and filing and disposition dates, all of which will ensure timely case flow through the system and help identify any backlogs. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to develop administrative reforms that build human and institutional capacity, while harnessing the power of information technology to improve access to court data and case information through enhanced statistical reporting.
- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal delivered office equipment to the SC's Administration and Construction Departments. The equipment donation included computers, printers, scanners, and various office supplies to be used by SC staff to enter data into the Court's asset

management database. The SC developed and installed the asset management database in December 2012 with support from RLS-Formal with the aim of developing the capacity of the SC to manage its personnel, finances, and material assets.

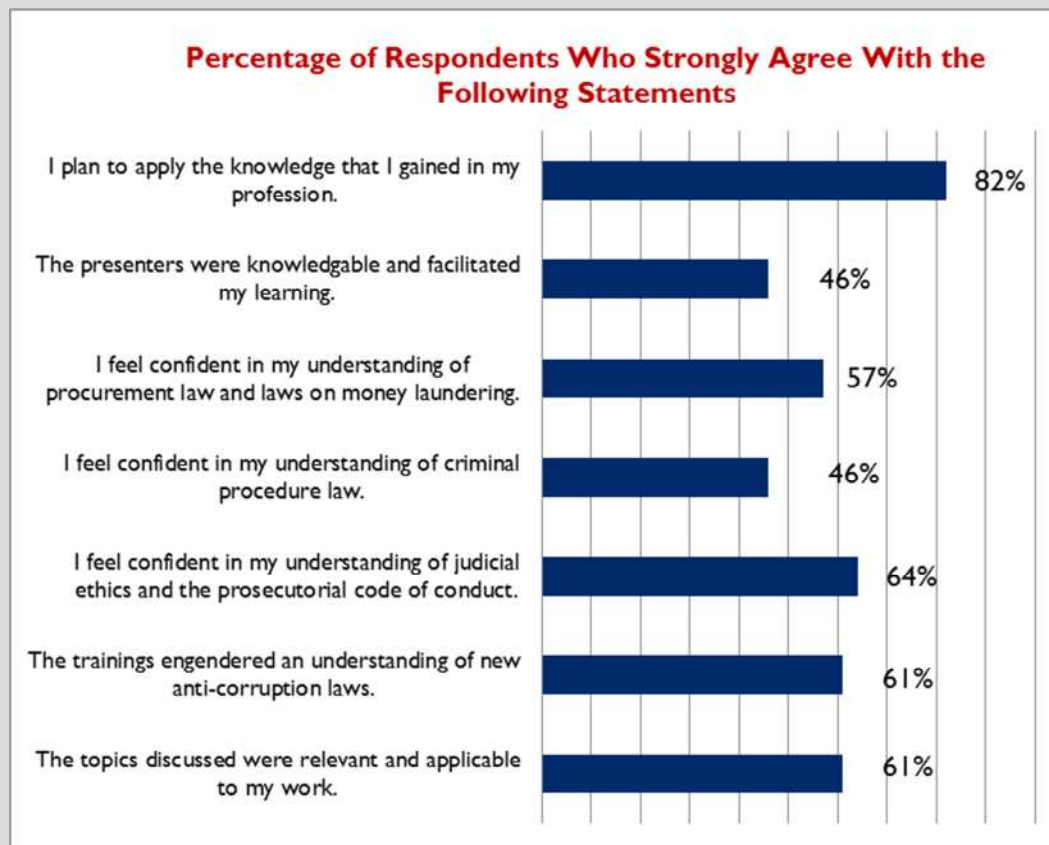
- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, RLS-Formal provided materials for the Afghanistan Court Administration System (ACAS) to the Criminal Division of the Kabul Appellate Court. ACAS is the country's paper-based case management system which tracks and records case data as such litigant names, case types, and dispositions. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to manage cases using ACAS in order to increase the efficacy and transparency of case handling and to strengthen public confidence in the judiciary as a trusted institution for the resolution of legal disputes.

## Evaluating the Impact of Training

### Judges and Prosecutors Receive Training on Anti-Corruption Laws

RLS-Formal evaluates its practical legal education activities through post-course questionnaires of beneficiaries. Specially-trained monitoring and evaluation staff conduct the evaluations and share the results with program staff in order to focus on lessons learned and areas for improvement.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, staff conducted an evaluation of fourteen judges and fourteen prosecutors from a multi-donor, joint training program on anti-corruption in Kabul. A field surveyor distributed questionnaires to the participants and recorded their feedback. Below are the results of the evaluation.



Sayd Mohammad Rahime, a **prosecutor in Balkh Province**, described the impact of the training: “Holding such seminars and providing professional guidance to prosecutors and judges is very helpful, because it facilitates our work and increases our understanding of what we need to know to conduct fair trials in Afghanistan.”

## COMPONENT 3

# AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION EXPANDED

**RLS-Formal expands the availability of legal education in Afghanistan by building the capacity of Law and *Sharia* faculties across the country. The objective of Component 3 is to form a cadre of well-trained and motivated legal professionals who have received a quality legal education in order to provide meaningful access to justice to the citizens they serve.**

## **COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE FACULTIES OF LAW AND SHARIA**

### **TASK 1: CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF CORE CURRICULUM FOR LAW AND SHARIA FACULTIES**

- In May, RLS-Formal advisors met with deans and professors from the *Sharia* faculty of Herat University to discuss developing a course on the overlap between Islamic and secular law. The deans and professors intend to draft the course during the upcoming summer break. RLS-Formal assists Law and *Sharia* faculties with developing new course content in order to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.

### **TASK 2: PROVIDE PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS**

- On May 19<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>, Herat University commenced two ongoing training programs for its legal clinics with the support of RLS-Formal. In the first program, 14 male and 5 female legal clinic practitioners received training on how to practically introduce students to civil law. In the second, 15 male and 6 female legal clinic practitioners received training on case analysis and legal research strategies in criminal law. RLS-Formal provides practical training for law students and instructors in order to supplement the theoretical focus of traditional legal training in Afghanistan.
- On May 27<sup>th</sup>, the Panjsher Institute inaugurated a new library for its *Sharia* faculty with support from RLS-Formal. The Deputy Governor of Panjsher province and the Chancellor of the Institute led the ceremony, with government officials, local media, students, and members of the local provincial council in attendance. RLS-Formal supports the development of well-equipped libraries as a means for students to identify and access legal reference materials and develop critical research and analysis skills necessary to zealously advocate on behalf of prospective clients, successfully prosecute cases, or render fair decisions as future defense lawyers, prosecutors, or judges.



*The Deputy Provincial Governor of Panjsher Province (center right) and the Chancellor of the Panjsher Institute (right) inaugurate a new law library in May 2013.*

## Panjsher Institute Inaugurates New Law Library

### Library Aims to Build Students' Legal Research Skills

Laying the foundation for an institute of higher education can be an exciting and risky endeavor. New institutes must attract students and professors as well as **accumulate academic resources** in order to thrive. The challenges to starting a new institute are compounded in Afghanistan where gaining access to the internet, reliable electricity, desks and chairs are obstacles even for many well-established universities. The Panjsher Institute established in 2012 at the **former site of a US Provincial Reconstruction Team** in the province took an important step to ensure its continuing success when it inaugurated a law library for its *Sharia* faculty on May 27, 2013.



*The new Law library at the Panjsher Institute before its inauguration.*

The **Deputy Governor of Panjsher Province** and the **Chancellor of the Panjsher Institute** led the ceremony to open the law library. Members of the local media, officials from the Ministry of Energy and Water, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and members of the Provincial Council also attended. The library features many volumes of legal texts and a computer with online access to the Law Library of Congress.

Despite its recent beginnings, students from the Institute have already earned a reputation for overcoming obstacles when its team competed in the Afghan National Round of the 2013 Jessup International Moot Court Competition. Their resounding success came despite not speaking fluent English (the language of competition), not having a coach, and having to study at night by the light of their cell phones because they lacked electricity. The new library will serve as a valuable resource for all of the Institute's students so they can access the legal resources necessary to develop their critical thinking skills and to meaningfully contribute to the justice sector in Afghanistan after their graduation.

Mawlana Abdul Rahman Kabiri, the Deputy Governor of Panjsher Province, remarked on the impact of the law library during the ceremony saying: “The establishment of such library is a great assistance in developing higher education at Panjsher province. We are all interested in improving higher education in Panjsher, and we have come together to express our gratitude and support for **this positive step.**”

- In May, RLS-Formal distributed training and case materials to 40 students participating in the 2013 Media Law Moot Court Competition. Each of the team members, 29 male and 11 female students from Law and *Sharia* faculties around the country, won a place in the competition through a competitive process. The 10 teams represent the universities of Al Biruni, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Takhar, Kunduz, Paktia and Panjshir Institute. RLS-Formal supports moot court contests and other practical skills activities to develop a future cadre of highly-skilled and well-trained judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers who are able to provide citizens with justice through the formal court system.

### **TASK 3: SUPPORT HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR LAW STUDENTS**

- On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Al Biruni University commenced a legal clinic on family and criminal law with the support of RLS-Formal. 15 male and 10 female students from the university’s Law and *Sharia* faculties studied procedures employed by courts to ensure that family law and criminal law cases move through the court processes in a timely, fair and efficient manner. RLS-Formal provides technical and financial support to legal clinic programs which help students to observe live proceedings in the formal justice system and develop their research and advocacy skills to prepare them to enter the legal profession after graduation.



*Students at Al Biruni University participated in a legal clinic on family law and criminal law in May 2013.*

- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Balkh University conducted a qualifying examination for students interested in competing in the 2014 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. 17 male and 13 female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties sat for the test which will determine their placement in a preparatory program to represent their university in the competition. RLS-Formal supports moot court contests and other practical skills initiatives in order to develop a future cadre of well-trained and highly-skilled judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers.

- On May 28<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>, Kabul University graduated 130 students from its Law and *Sharia* faculties from a computer training program with the support of RLS-Formal. 75 male and 55 female students learned Microsoft Windows through hands-on, problem-solving activities. RLS-Formal supports computer literacy training programs to help equip students with the basic skills necessary to conduct legal research in preparation for entering the legal profession.



*Students attend a computer training program at Kabul University in May 2013.*

Illustrative Ongoing Practical Coursework Supported by RLS-Formal*							
Start	End Date	Type of Coursework	Topic	No. of Students		University	Faculty
				Male	Female		
April	TBD	Legal English	Level 3	18	13	Balkh	Law
March	TBD	Legal Clinic	Civil Law	6	6	Balkh	Law & Sharia
March	TBD	Legal Clinic	Criminal Law	6	6	Balkh	Law & Sharia
April	August	Legal English	Level 3	0	28	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 3	20	0	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 2	0	20	Herat	Law & Sharia
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	22	0	Herat	Law & Sharia
March	July	Legal English	Level 2	64	0	Herat	Law
March	August	Legal English	Level 2	0	69	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	45	0	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	39	0	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	0	40	Herat	Law
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	0	70	Herat	Sharia
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	31	0	Herat	Sharia
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	75	0	Herat	Sharia
April	August	Legal English	Level 1	29	0	Herat	Sharia
April	July	Legal Clinic	Family Law & Criminal Law	10	21	Kabul	Sharia
April	November	Legal Clinic	Criminal Procedure	22	18	Kabul	Law

\*As of May 31, 2013



#### **TASK 4: DEVELOP ADVANCED LEGAL ENGLISH TRAINING**

- On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Kabul University graduated 150 students from five legal English programs with support from RLS-Formal. A total of 88 male and 62 female Law and *Sharia* students received two months of training on English language skills, including the use of legal terminology, and drafting and presenting legal opinions. RLS-Formal supports such programs in order to help students to participate in moot court competitions, study tours, and scholarships abroad, all of which require English proficiency. In a recent survey conducted by RLS-Formal, the project found that students who participated in legal English training programs were 88% more likely to agree that the availability and quality of their legal education experience were enhanced compared to those students who had not taken part in such programs.

#### **TASK 5: MODERNIZE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

- Between May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) held a Symposium, facilitated by RLS-Formal, for the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Afghanistan to engage in a strategic dialogue on charting a sustainable future for legal education in the country. Participants included representatives from the universities, government and non-governmental institutions, and international donors. At the opening ceremony, Minister of Higher Education Obaidullah Obaid remarked: “I hope this Symposium will help us create new opportunities for practical education for students and build capacity within our legal education system.” Also in attendance was USAID Mission Director Ken Yamashita who emphasized the importance of practical legal education, stating: “Moot court competitions are examples of the benefits of practical legal education. This year, the Herat Jessup Moot Court Team won the Afghan National Round of the International Law Moot Court Competition and traveled to Washington, DC, where it placed at the highest level of any Afghan team to date by placing in the top half of all competing universities.” The participants expressed a strong interest in holding this type of event on an annual basis.



*Members of Law faculties participate in a workshop at the Symposium for legal education in Kabul in May 2013.*

- On May 21<sup>st</sup>, RLS-Formal commenced a teaching methodology training program for professors from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Takhar University. 33 male professors and one female professor began training on interactive teaching techniques that encourage students to debate, discuss, and think critically and analytically. RLS-Formal builds the capacity of Law and *Sharia*



faculties in order to develop a robust cadre of well-trained and motivated instructors who will continue to improve the quality of legal education in Afghanistan.



*Professors attend a teaching methodology training program at Takhar University in May 2013.*

## 2013 Symposium for the Law and Sharia Faculties of Afghanistan

### Excerpts from the Opening Speech by Dean Iqrar Wasel, Law Faculty of Kabul University

“We have come together here today to discuss and make decisions on **coordination between legal education institutions** as a key theme of legal and judicial services. Legal education at these institutions is not restricted to theory only; rather, it also includes **practical work** in the form of legal clinics that are functioning under Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University.”

“Although both Law and *Sharia* faculties made concerted efforts during unification of the new **core curriculum** to address this issue, those efforts were not sufficient, and I therefore call on the audience of this symposium to focus on addressing this issue without involving any politics because it is firmly believed that without resolving this issue, no **investment in improving legal education** in the country will give fruit. “

“At this point, I would like to acknowledge that what Law and *Sharia* faculties have achieved today would not have been possible without **assistance and support of USAID**, Global Rights, GIZ, ILF-A, Max Planck... Examples of such assistance include printing and publishing of books compiled by Law and *Sharia* faculty lecturers; compiling and printing of the **first legal glossary** of its kind in the country; and establishing, equipping and **funding legal clinics** in Law and *Sharia* faculties of Kabul University.”

“I should not forget to mention that the establishment of legal clinics is an unprecedented achievement in Law and *Sharia* faculties as they offer the **first ever opportunity** of its kind in **conducting practical works** inside the faculties. Students and judicial institutions have been welcoming and highly appreciative of these clinics. The aforementioned **remarkable achievements** compel me to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to DPK for its vital support up to this point, and I am really looking forward to their continued support enabling us to have further achievements in the future.”

“I would like to wish you all the best with **finding solutions for challenges** to be discussed in this symposium.”

## COMPONENT 4

# CITIZEN AWARENESS OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND LEGAL PROCESSES OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM INCREASED

**RLS-Formal raises citizen awareness of legal rights and court processes with public legal outreach and awareness conducted through strategic communications under Component 4. The objective of Component 4 is to transfer knowledge and skills to government counterparts to develop a core of professionals with the expertise and experience to sustainably continue public information campaigns that increase citizen awareness and develop trust in the formal justice system.**

## **COMPONENT 4: PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH AND AWARENESS THROUGH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS**

### **TASK 1: PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LEGAL OUTREACH CAPACITY**

- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, with assistance from RLS-Formal, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) graduated 22 public outreach staff from a training program on the institution's National Legal Awareness Strategy in Mazar. The 22 male staff received training on how to conduct legal outreach activities to inform the public of their legal rights and increase their confidence in the formal justice system. In partnership with the MOJ, RLS-Formal conducts national and regional seminars to educate and motivate government officials to engage in legal awareness campaigns that inform citizens of their legal rights.
- On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the MOJ held an event to raise public awareness of the formal justice system for over 250 participants at Balkh University with the support of RLS-Formal. The participants observed a mobile theater performance promoting women's rights and gender equality and received pamphlets, posters, and brochures which inform them of their basic legal rights. In partnership with RLS-Formal, the MOJ conducts national and regional seminars for its provincial legal awareness departments in order to train and educate staff on utilizing effective and engaging means of mass communication in conducting the MOJ's legal awareness campaigns.

### **TASK 2: CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO CONDUCT EFFECTIVE PRINT CAMPAIGNS**

- In May, RLS-Formal continued to assist the MOJ to develop a web-based application for access to Afghan laws. The application will allow justice sector personnel and members of the public to read and obtain copies of these laws. The project also distributes print and compact discs of Afghan laws to justice sector personnel across the country to increase their familiarity with all of the country's laws.

### **TASK 3: DEVELOP CAPACITY OF SUPREME COURT AND MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TO PRODUCE RADIO AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS**

- On May 11<sup>th</sup>, in coordination with the MOJ and RLS-Formal, Radio Television Afghanistan broadcasted four public service announcements designed to raise awareness of basic legal rights on its provincial radio station in Wardak province. The announcements emphasized the rights of women to own property and inheritance, the rights of children to education, and informed citizens how to obtain access to the MOJ's legal aid offices. RLS-Formal assists the MOJ with creative approaches to leveraging legal outreach campaigns, including forging partnerships with broadcasters to secure low cost air time for public awareness campaigns which foster confidence and public trust in the justice system.

# GENDER JUSTICE

**RLS-Formal advances the rights of Afghan women and girls by building their capacity to meaningfully participate in the justice sector. By seeking to promote women's rights and gender equality, the project aims to enhance women's access to formal justice mechanisms, improve availability of legal education for women, and foster a society willing and capable of enforcing existing law and Constitutional rights of women.**

## **RLS-FORMAL GENDER INTEGRATION & AWARENESS**

- On May 18<sup>th</sup>, five members of the Afghan Women Judges Association (AWJA) concluded a study tour to New Zealand to build their capacity to promote support for women in the judiciary and access to justice for women. The Afghan judges participated in the 2013 Regional Conference of the International Association of Women Judges exploring issues of common concern with other women judges, including issues of human rights, trafficking and the environment. The judges also visited several courts including the New Zealand Supreme Court to observe effective court management techniques. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA to advocate on behalf of women judges and to inspire young women considering careers in the judiciary.



*AWAJ President Judge Alisa Rasooli poses at the New Zealand Supreme Court during a study tour in May 2013.*

## Quotes from Beneficiaries

Judge Anisa Rasooli, **AWJA President and Head of the Kabul Family Appellate Court**, summarized what her participation in the 2013 Regional Conference of the International Association of Women Judges meant for her professional growth: “The study tour was well-managed, informative and an altogether new experience for us women judges. We visited courts and met judges from our host country and other countries with whom we exchanged ideas and shared professional experiences.”

- On May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>, RLS-Formal conducted a gender justice training program for female students from the Law and *Sharia* faculties of Takhar University. 64 female students received training on the importance of the Law Eliminating Violence against Women in protecting and guaranteeing the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.



*Female students attend a gender justice training at Takhar University in May 2013.*

- In May, RLS-Formal assisted the AWJA with developing its Strategic Plan which sets the priority objectives and goals for the nascent organization. The Plan calls for the implementation of activities that ensure that female judges in Afghanistan have a robust presence and role in the country's male-dominated judiciary, as well as the professional capacity equal to that of their peers around the world. Focus on advanced legal training, basic computer skills, and observational learning activities (such as visits to forensic laboratories, women's shelters, and prisons) will aim to further this strategic objective. RLS-Formal works closely with the SC to strengthen the organizational capacity of the AWJA to advocate on behalf of its membership and to inspire young women considering careers in the judiciary.
- In May, RLS-Formal advisors met with members of the SC's Judicial Education Committee to discuss conducting gender justice training programs for women judges. The trainings intend to build the capacity of female judges in Afghanistan so that they have the same access to technical information and education as their male counterparts. RLS-Formal aims to enhance women's role and access to formal justice mechanisms, contributing to a society willing and capable of enforcing existing law and Constitutional rights of all in Afghanistan.

# MONITORING & EVALUATION

Performance Indicator Data							
Indicator	2nd Quarter FY 2013					Life of Project	
	Monthly Progress			Quarterly Achievement	Quarterly Target	Achievement To Date	Cumulative Target
	Apr	May	Jun				
1. Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively	-	-	-	-	-	-	+10% on Q3 Result
2. Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law	0.01%	1.07%	-	1.08%	5%	7.90%	19.50%
3. Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted	-	-	-	-	-	68%	71%
4. Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training	-	-	-	-	82%	-	82%
5. Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques	-	-	-	-	5	-	15
6. Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights	0%	0%	-	0%	+3.00%	22.01%	28.00%
7. Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance	5	60	-	65	282	2321	3227
8. Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms	0	61	-	61	149	74	551
9. Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector	-	93%	-	93%	90%	93%	100%
10. Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships	358	284	-	642	655	2682	3685
11. Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance	0	0	-	0	2	22	30
12. Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries	Aware	Aware	-	-	-	Aware	Very Aware
13. Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns	1794 Print	1428 Print, 2 TV & Radio	-	3222 Print, 2 TV & Radio	700000 Print, 1 TV & Radio	4,011,656 Print, 7 TV & Radio	5,000,000 Print, 16 Radio & TV
14. Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming	-	-	-	-	5%	-	+10% on Q3 Results

**Indicator 1: Percentage of court users who agree that a court performed effectively**

RLS-Formal utilizes a court user satisfaction survey, or Q10 survey, to gauge the perceptions of Afghan citizens who interact with courts. The views of court users suggest whether judicial reforms result in the creation of efficient and transparent dispute resolution in the eyes of Afghan citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

**Indicator 2: Percentage of the population reached by campaigns supported by USG to foster public awareness and respect for rule of law**

RLS-Formal works with its implementing partners to collect data on the number of people reached by its public legal outreach campaigns. Exposure to such campaigns increases the likelihood that a citizen will increase his or her awareness of their legal rights and how to access the justice system. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 2 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1b.

**Indicator 3: Percentage of the population who agree that state courts are fair and trusted**

RLS-Formal employs The Asia Foundation's Survey of the Afghan People, Question 79b to measure the public confidence in courts in Afghanistan. The percentage of the population who agree state courts are fair and trusted speaks to the overall public confidence in the rule of law system. The Asia Foundation publishes the survey results annually in November.

**Indicator 4: Percentage of judges that complete the basic or "stage" training**

RLS-Formal tracks the judges who graduate from the judicial *Stage*, the induction training to prepare a judge to serve in the judiciary. The *Stage* builds the capacity of judges by improving their legal knowledge and professional skills in areas, such as the constitution, civil and criminal code, and the *Sharia* law. RLS-Formal reports this indicator annually when the *Stage* graduates, or when the number of judges changes significantly. Indicator 4 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.11.b.

**Indicator 5: Number of stage trainers employing modern teaching techniques**

RLS-Formal evaluates the teaching techniques of instructors at the judicial *Stage*, including their use of visual aids, learning exercises, student-led debates and classroom discussions. Modern teaching techniques increase the likelihood judges will build the practical legal knowledge and professional skills necessary to serve in the judiciary. RLS-Formal reports the results of its evaluations quarterly.

**Indicator 6: Percentage of judges that received training on women's legal rights**

RLS-Formal tracks which judges receive training on gender equality and gender justice. The training programs aim to improve judges' knowledge of women's rights and enable them to secure these rights through court proceedings. RLS-Formal reports these results quarterly.

**Indicator 7: Number of judges and judicial personnel trained with USG assistance**

RLS-formal tabulates the number of justice sector personnel that receive training through program activities through attendance sheets. The project's training programs aim to assist judges and judicial staff to effectively carry out their duties and instill a sense of the necessity for judicial independence, transparency and accountability. RLS-Formal reports its training data quarterly. Indicator 7 is the US Foreign Assistance Framework Indicator 2.1.2-7. Indicator 7 represents the project's reported number of personnel trained to USAID. Training numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

**Indicator 8: Number of courts benefitting from improved court management and/or administrative systems or reforms**

RLS-Formal tracks the courts which benefit from its initiatives to improve court administration and management. Professional management systems enhance the capacity of the Supreme Court to manage its budget, personnel and assets. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly.

**Indicator 9: Percentage of students participating in practical legal course work that express increased confidence in their ability to enter the justice sector**

RLS-Formal surveys students to measure their perception of the quality of legal education at their university's Law and *Sharia* faculties. Practical legal coursework intends to training and motivating students become legal professionals who can offer meaningful access to justice to more citizens. RLS-Formal reports the survey results in the third quarter of FY 2013 and the first quarter of FY 2014.

**Indicator 10: Number of students involved in practical legal exercises, including legal clinic work, moot court competitions or internships**

RLS-Formal gages the number of students involved in practical legal activities, including legal clinics, moot courts, mock trials or other competitions designed to hone students' advocacy and research skills, through attendance sheets. Practical legal exercises complement the theoretical legal education commonly found in Afghanistan. RLS-Formal reports this data quarterly. Indicator 10 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2b. Indicator 10 represents the project's reported number of student participants to USAID. Student numbers mentioned previously in the report represent estimates that may be unsubstantiated by attendance sheets.

**Indicator 11: Number of new legal courses or curricula developed with USG assistance**

RLS-Formal tracks the number of new legal courses developed as a result of its assistance to the Ministry of Higher Education. Such courses complement the newly unified core curriculum for Law and *Sharia* faculties by providing the coursework, textbooks, and reference materials for professors to teach their classes. RLS-Formal reports the new legal courses developed quarterly. Indicator 11 is the USAID/Afghanistan Mission Indicator 1.1.2e.

**Indicator 12: Level of awareness of legal rights expressed by targeted beneficiaries**

RLS-Formal conducts listening groups of beneficiaries to gauge the effectiveness of its public legal outreach activities. Public legal outreach activities aim to increase citizens' awareness of legal rights and process through strategic communications. RLS-Formal analyzes and reports the result of the listening groups quarterly.

**Indicator 13: Number of print publications, radio and television programs, and other outreach materials produced and disseminated through legal outreach campaigns**

RLS-Formal tracks the public outreach materials produced and disseminated through the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court as the result of its assistance. Effective legal outreach campaigns require leveraging popular media channels and mechanisms to ensure rule of Law message reach the public. RLS-Formal reports these numbers quarterly.

**Indicator 14: Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training/programming**

RLS-Formal solicits feedback from participants through questionnaires to measures the efficacy of its training programs. Training programs aim to stimulate growth in women's confidence and ability to advocate for women's legal status and access justice. RLS-Formal reports this indicator quarterly. Indicator 14 is the USAID Gender strategy Indicator #3.



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